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Strategic Win or Costly Mistake? Israel and Somaliland Explained



The decision of Israel to formally recognize Somaliland marks a bold shift in its foreign policy and simultaneously has triggered sharp reactions across Africa as well as the Arab world. Somaliland has functioned as a self-governing entity since 1991. However, Israel has become the first UN member to grant it official recognition. The nation has broken decades of international consensus.

Supporters see the move as a calculated strategic step as Somaliland sits near the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is a vital route for global trade as well as maritime security of Israel. Strengthening ties in the Horn of Africa could help Israel counter regional threats and simultaneously even expand its geopolitical reach beyond the Middle East. The step has come at a time when Red Sea security has become increasingly fragile.

The diplomatic costs are equally clear. Somalia has strongly condemned the decision. The nation has called it a violation of its sovereignty. The African Union and several Arab nations fear the move could set a dangerous precedent. The move may encourage separatist movements across already unstable regions. Many believe that the recognition may risk undermining regional stability instead of strengthening it.

The timing raises questions. Israel is already facing international scrutiny over Gaza. The decision may deepen diplomatic isolation instead of easing it. Israel frames the move as strategic and forward-looking. But critics see it as prioritizing short-term security gains over long-term regional harmony.

Ultimately, the recognition is a high-risk geopolitical gamble. It could reshape alliances in the Horn of Africa. It could also add another layer of tension to an already volatile global landscape.

Did Ukraine Target Putin's Residence? Or Is Russia Shaping Narrative?

The claim of Russia that Ukraine attempted to strike President Vladimir Putin's residence using drones appears less like a confirmed security incident and more like a carefully timed political narrative. No independent evidence has been offered by Moscow so far while Ukraine has categorically denied the allegation. The nation has called it a fabrication that is basically meant to justify future Russian attacks and juxtapose it to disrupt diplomatic efforts.

However, the timing is crucial. The claim surfaced soon after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's meeting with US President Donald Trump. It is reported that the discussions touched on pathways to end the war. Russia may be attempting to weaken diplomatic standing of Kyiv and particularly in Washington by portraying Ukraine as reckless and escalatory.

Ukraine has carried out strikes deep inside Russian territory before. Targeting a presidential residence would mark a dramatic and risky escalation as Kyiv has little strategic incentive to pursue during sensitive peace talks. This makes the Russian version of events difficult to accept without proof.

The episode meanwhile highlights the way information warfare has become central to conflicts. Allegations can influence global opinion and political reactions faster than facts even if those are unverified ones. The claim of Russia should be treated with caution as long as evidence remains absent. It should not be considered as truth but as part of a wider battle to control the narrative of the war.

Iceland records hottest Christmas Eve on record

Iceland experienced an unusually warm Christmas Eve in 2025. Temperatures reached 19.8°C in the town of Seyðisfjörður, the highest ever recorded in the country for December. Average December temperatures in Iceland are typically between -1°C and 4°C. The previous December record was 19.7°C in 2019. Meteorologists say a high-pressure system drawing warm tropical air over the region caused the spike. Scientists view the extreme warmth as part of broader climate change trends affecting Arctic and near-Arctic regions.

Global Economy in 2026

Will AI Growth Outrun Trade and Debt Risks?

Page 02

Global Economy in 2026

Will AI Growth Outrun Trade and Debt Risks?

Global economy has stepped into 2026. Optimism around technological innovation is colliding with hard economic realities. Artificial intelligence, geopolitical trade tensions and mounting debt burdens are shaping an uncertain outlook. Policymakers and investors can no longer afford to ignore these.

AI Boom or Bubble?

Artificial intelligence has continued dominating economic narratives. Massive investments in AI infrastructure have boosted growth and particularly in the United States. However, rising concerns about overvaluation suggest the risk of an AI bubble is real. Market corrections could ripple across global economies if expected productivity gains fail to materialize. Innovation alone cannot sustain growth unless it delivers broad as well as measurable benefits beyond big tech.

Trade Tensions Threaten Growth

Global trade remains under strain as tariff wars and geopolitical rivalries intensify. Protectionist policies are fragmenting supply chains and discouraging cross-border investment. History shows that economic growth thrives on cooperation and not on isolation. Global growth in 2026 is likely to remain weak and uneven without renewed trade diplomacy.

Debt and Inflation

High public and private debt levels are limiting ability of governments to respond to economic shocks. Lingering inflation at the same time continues to pressure central banks. It is forcing tough choices between growth and price stability. The combination leaves little room for policy error.

Uneven Global Outlook

Countries like India may outperform. However, major economies such as China face structural challenges that could slow global momentum. Forecasts point to modest growth in 2026 but disparities between regions are of course widening.

Bigger Question

The world economy is not on the brink of collapse. But it is clearly at a turning point. Sustainable growth in 2026 will depend on responsible AI investment, reduced trade friction and disciplined fiscal policy. Today's risks could become tomorrow's crises without coordinated action.

**Shocking Truth About How
AI Is Changing Our Votes?**

Page 04

Can U.S. Airstrikes Really Curb Islamist Militants in Nigeria?

Recent U.S. airstrikes targeting Islamist militant camps in northwest Nigeria have reignited debate over whether foreign military intervention can truly curb growing insecurity of the country. The strikes may deliver short-term tactical gains. However, it is sure they are unlikely to solve deeper and more complex militant problem of Nigeria.

U.S. airpower offers clear advantages. Precision strikes can disrupt militant hideouts, eliminate key commanders and even weaken logistics networks which are linked to groups inspired by Islamic State ideology. Such operations can provide breathing space as well as a temporary reduction in attacks for overstretched security forces of the nation.

However, airstrikes alone cannot defeat militancy in Nigeria. The security crisis of Nigeria is not confined to just one region or one group. Boko Haram and ISWAP are active groups in the northeast. Some newer factions and criminal-militant alliances operate in the north western part. The groups thrive because of ideology as well as also because of poverty, unemployment, weak governance and limited state presence in rural areas. Bombing camps does little to address such serious root causes.

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Can U.S. Airstrikes Really Curb Islamist Militants in Nigeria?

Continued from page 02

There is also a risk in how such interventions are framed. Political rhetoric portraying the conflict mainly as a religious struggle oversimplifies reality. Both Muslims and Christians are victims of violence. Many clashes are driven by land disputes, economic hardship and competition for local power. Framing the conflict in ideological terms may unintentionally strengthen extremist narratives and fuel recruitment.



International cooperation is not inherently flawed. Decision of Nigeria to allow U.S. strikes shows the seriousness of the threat and simultaneously also the need for global support. Intelligence sharing, surveillance and training assistance can all strengthen its counterterrorism capacity. But military support must be part of a broader strategy. The military should not be the strategy itself.

Long-term stability is to depend on rebuilding trust between communities and the state. It is to improve local policing, investing in education and tackling corruption that weakens security institutions. Militant groups may regroup, rebrand and return without such measures.

The U.S. airstrikes may certainly weaken specific militant cells but cannot deliver lasting peace on their own. The fight against extremism requires sustained political will, economic reform and community-level solutions. Airpower can slow violence. However, the slowing down is inclusive governance and development can stop it.

AI Meets Sustainability How IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi Is Shaping the Future

Page 04

HBO + Netflix = Disaster? What This Mega-Deal Means for TV Fans?

The streaming wars was once a golden age of choice and creative risk. But it may be entering a new era of consolidation in 2026. The move of Netflix to acquire Warner Bros., including HBO and HBO Max, is not just a gesture of bigger library of content, but it is simultaneously also a potential loss of the distinct identities that made platforms unique.

HBO built its reputation on bold as well as auteur-driven storytelling. Netflix thrived on binge-friendly originals and global reach. Merging the two means creating scale, but risks diluting creativity. The very competition that pushed platforms to innovate may disappear. The competition has produced diverse and risk-taking content in the past.

Viewers are already showing subscription fatigue. They are seeking either ad-supported or free alternatives. Audiences may end up with more shows but fewer meaningful choices as consolidation grows. The true test for Netflix will be whether it prioritizes creative ambition or algorithm-driven safety.

This acquisition is more than a business deal. It is a cultural turning point that could redefine how stories are made as well as consumed in the streaming era.

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Shocking Truth About How AI Is Changing Our Votes

Artificial intelligence has moved from labs to our daily lives. It is reshaping communication, work and governance. The debate now is no longer theoretical. AI now influences how we perceive reality, form opinions and of course participate in democracy.

The danger lies not in AI itself. The danger lies in how it mediates public discourse. Algorithms can amplify misinformation, generate deepfakes and fragment communities as well. Such algorithms can turn democratic debate into isolated echo chambers. AI-powered social media often optimizes for outrage over truth. This makes consensus harder to achieve.

Yet AI can also enhance democracy if it is used responsibly. Tools that summarize complex debates, highlight underrepresented voices or aggregate public input can expand participation beyond traditional limits. The key distinction is AI as a tool to assist deliberation and not replace human judgment. Democracy relies on collective values, moral reasoning as well as accountability. Algorithms cannot replicate such qualities.

Moving forward, societies must:

- Ensure transparency and accountability in AI systems influencing civic life.
- Democratize AI governance through public oversight and participation.
- Invest in civic education and critical thinking for citizens.
- Use AI to strengthen, not replace, democratic processes.

AI stands at a crossroads. It can either amplify democratic engagement or undermine trust and polarization. The choice depends on whether we shape such technologies to serve people and not replace them.

Movies to Watch at Cannes and Venice Film Festivals 2026

The Cannes and Venice Film Festivals 2026 are already generating buzz with several high-profile films expected to debut at the world's top cinema showcases. According to industry previews of Variety's anticipated lineup, the 2026 festival season could spotlight major titles from acclaimed directors and Hollywood heavyweights.

Top films expected at Cannes or Venice in 2026 include:

- Disclosure Day — Steven Spielberg's UFO thriller starring Emily Blunt and Josh O'Connor.
- Digger — Alejandro G. Iñárritu's dramatic comedy with Tom Cruise, eyed for Venice.

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AI Meets Sustainability

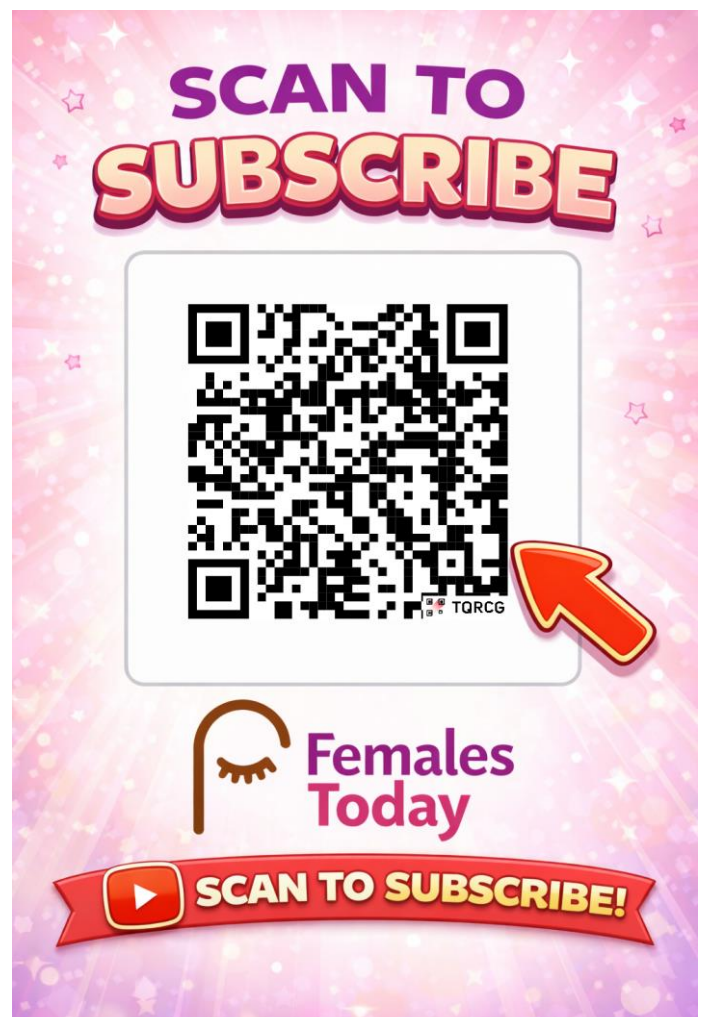
How IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi Is Shaping the Future

The AIMS 2025 conference was lately hosted by IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi. It was more than an academic gathering. It was a gesture of a new era in global collaboration on AI and sustainable technologies. More than 400 delegates from 20+ countries attended the event that highlighted how interdisciplinary research can address pressing challenges such as climate change, energy transitions and sustainable materials.

AIMS 2025 bridged traditional silos by showing that AI is not just about algorithms, but it can actually accelerate materials discovery, optimize energy systems as well as enable circular resource solutions. The conference simultaneously prioritized early-career researchers to ensure that the next generation is equipped to implement real-world solutions.

Hosting such a global forum in Abu Dhabi highlights ambition of the region as a research and innovation hub that is aligned with the UAE's National AI Strategy 2031 and Net Zero by 2050 goals. However, the true test lies in translating discussions into scalable as well as actionable solutions that impact industry and society.

AIMS 2025 is a declaration of intent. Universities can serve as bridges between disciplines, nations and generations.



Movies to Watch at Cannes and Venice Film Festivals 2026

Continued from page 04

- The Adventures of Cliff Booth — David Fincher's Once Upon a Time in Hollywood spin-off starring Brad Pitt.
- The Entertainment System Is Down — Ruben Östlund's new project with Keanu Reeves and Kirsten Dunst.
- Dune: Part Three — Denis Villeneuve's highly anticipated sci-fi sequel with Timothée Chalamet and Zendaya.
- Parallel Tales — Asghar Farhadi's French ensemble drama, a strong Cannes contender.
- Her Private Hell — Nicolas Winding Refn's comeback feature, rumored for either festival.

Additional expected festival films include works by Andrey Zvyagintsev (Minotaur), Hirokazu Kore-eda (Look Back), Quentin Dupieux (Full Phil), Arthur Harari (The Unknown), and Nanni Moretti (It Will Happen Tonight).

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2026

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Jan 01	New Year's Day
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Day
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 16	President's Day
Feb 17	Chinese New Year
Feb 18	Ramadan, 1st day
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 20	March equinox (GMT)
Apr 01	April Fool's Day
Apr 02	Passover
Apr 05	Easter
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 22	Admin Assistants Day
May 05	Cinco de Mayo
May 10	Mother's Day
May 24	Pentecost
May 25	Memorial Day
Jun 14	Flag Day
Jun 19	Juneteenth
Jun 21	Father's Day
Jun 21	June Solstice (GMT)
Jul 04	Independence Day
Sep 07	Labor Day
Sep 12	Rosh Hashanah
Sep 23	September equinox (GMT)
Oct 12	Federal Holiday
Oct 31	Halloween
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Dec 04	Hanukkah begins
Dec 21	December Solstice (GMT)
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa begins
Dec 31	New Year's Eve

Why Vienna's Housing Model Could Save Europe from a Rent Crisis

Housing is failing millions across Europe. Skyrocketing rents, shrinking social housing and overcrowding have turned homes into commodities and not just the basic rights. Cities like London, Paris and Dublin face a "generation rent." This is pushing young people out of ownership and simultaneously fueling inequality.

Vienna offers a striking contrast. About 43% of its housing stock is social housing. These are serving not just the poorest but also middle-income families. This long-term policy approach keeps private rents in check and preventing runaway housing costs that plague other cities. Originating from "Red Vienna" social-democratic initiatives, the city has maintained and adapted these policies over decades.

The model is not perfect. Bureaucracy and upfront costs can still exclude some renters and new construction struggles to match demand. But Vienna proves that treating housing as a public good, investing in social homes and planning for all income levels can create a sustainable as well as equitable housing market.

Europe does not need a utopia. It needs political will and smart policy. Vienna shows it is possible.

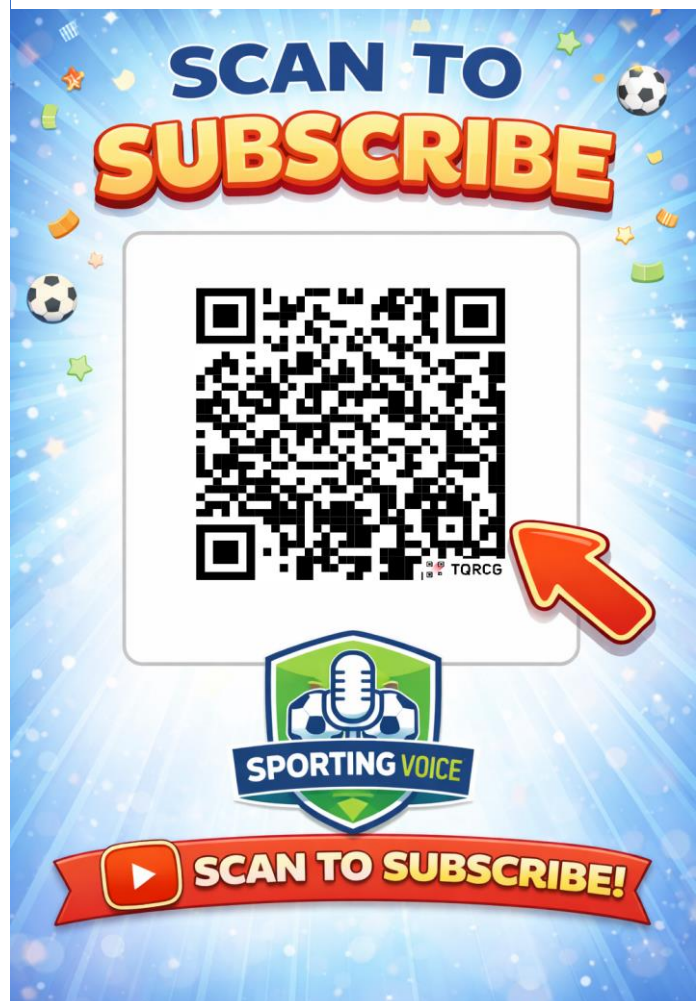
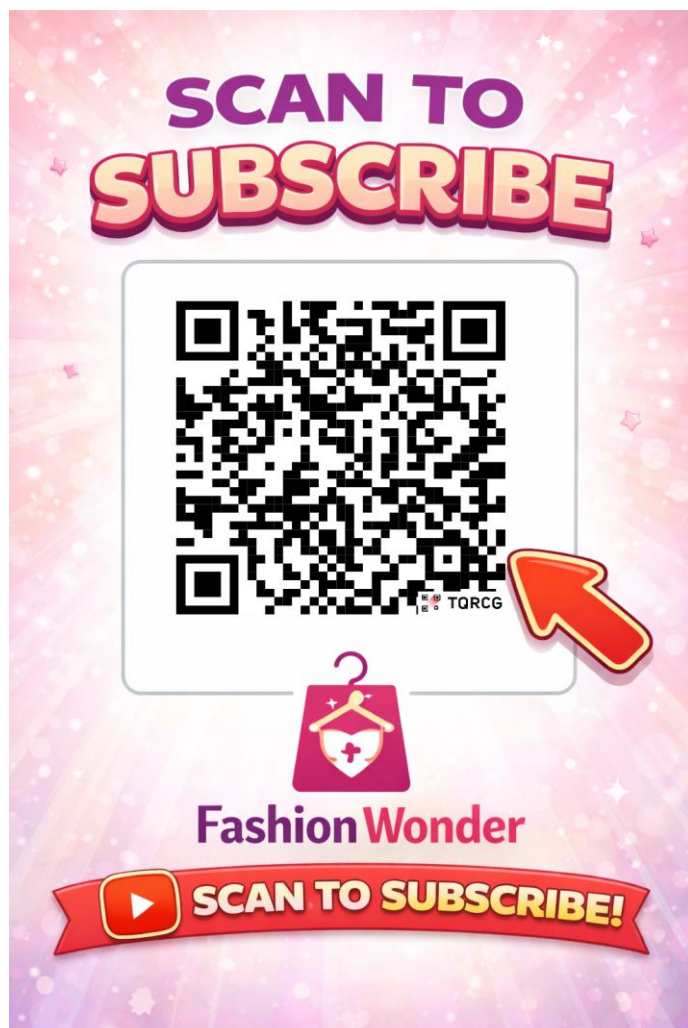
Are Australia's 2025 Laws Protecting Citizens

Legal landscape of Australia in 2025 shifted in ways that reflect societal change as well as lingering tensions. The laws are from protecting gig workers to reconsidering how pets are treated in family. The reforms show a mix of practical progress and symbolic gestures.

New protections against unfair deactivations on platforms like Uber and DoorDash mark a small but meaningful step toward recognising them as real participants in the economy. The protections are not just disposable algorithm entries. Meanwhile, pets are finally acknowledged as more than property. Courts are now considering emotional attachment and care responsibilities. However, shared custody remains off the table.

The law also took a stand against the sovereign citizen movement. The law is rejecting pseudolegal claims and simultaneously gesturing that courts won't tolerate fringe arguments. The courts won't tolerate even as the underlying social phenomenon persists. Internationally, Australia's formal recognition of Palestine signals a shift in diplomatic and legal posture, while strengthened environmental protections and the under-16 social media ban highlight tensions between safeguarding society and preserving freedoms.

What emerges from these reforms is a nation grappling with modern complexities. Some measures are symbolic. Others are practical.



Six Words, Big Consequences Why Trump's Statement Shook Kyiv

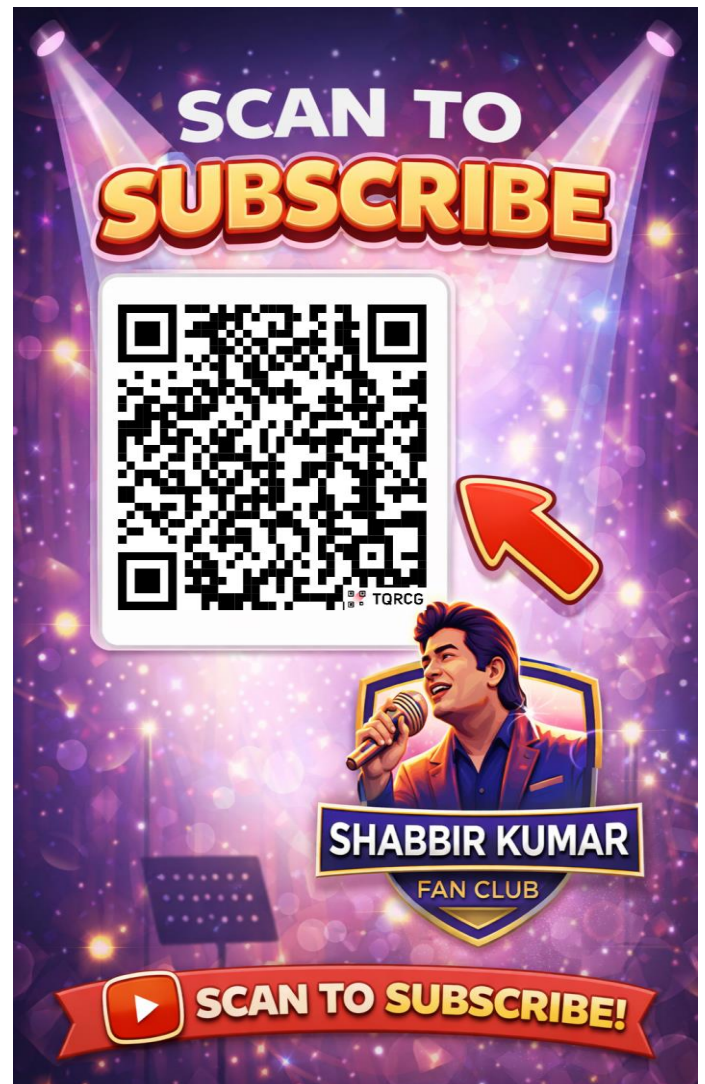
Every word counts when world leaders speak. The recent claim of Donald Trump that "Russia wants to see Ukraine succeed" landed awkwardly. The statement sparked visible discomfort to President Zelenskyy and even uneased worldwide. It sounds hopeful on the surface, it clashes sharply with the brutal war Russia continues to wage on Ukraine.

Success means stopping an unprovoked invasion, protecting cities and reclaiming sovereignty for millions of Ukrainians. Optimism without action can embolden aggressors and confuse allies who are counting on the U.S. to maintain credible pressure.

Words in diplomacy are not just rhetoric. Words in diplomacy shape strategy, influence negotiations and signal commitments. The six words of Trump exposed a disconnect between political phrasing and the harsh realities of war. Missteps in messaging can carry consequences far beyond a fleeting soundbite in a conflict where clarity matters as much as courage.

One Photo, Endless Questions
Andrew and Epstein Files

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One Photo, Endless Questions

Andrew and Epstein Files

A newly released photograph from the Epstein files shows Prince Andrew at Sandringham. He surrounded by women and with Ghislaine Maxwell nearby. It is an old snapshot on the surface. However, its context — a private royal residence — makes it deeply awkward for the monarchy.

The ties of Andrew to Epstein have long been controversial. It has cost him titles as well as the duties. But the image highlights that past decisions still cast a shadow over public image of the royal family. It is not just a personal scandal. It is a stain on an institution built on tradition, trust and of course moral authority.

The monarchy cannot fully escape the fallout even with measures like stripping Andrew of his royal privileges. Private moments become public narratives in an age of digital scrutiny. And the consequences of past choices linger. Sometimes in a single, powerful photograph of course.

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